

RESOLUTION NUMBER 328
CHRIST SOUTHERN MISSION BAPTIST CHURCH
JUNIOR CHOIR 70TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that on February 3, 2008 the Junior Choir of Christ's Southern Mission Baptist Church will celebrate 70 years of existence and service singing Zion's songs; and

WHEREAS, the Junior Choir of Christ's Southern Mission Baptist Church, under the pastorage of the late Reverend Herman Gore, Sr. was established in 1938 by Sister Ada J. Bernard with the assistance of Mother Reon Gore who served as Advisor. The Junior Choir was welcomed by the church and grew at one time to over one hundred children, baptized believers, ages five to fourteen; and

WHEREAS, the choir met with their instructor and sponsor, Sister Bernard, every Friday at 4:00 p.m. for rehearsal and provided the song service for worship service every first Sunday of each month. Sister. Bernard possessed a special love for children and worked with them diligently teaching them hymns, spirituals, and gospel songs to enhance the morning service until her sudden passing while at Junior Choir rehearsal on May 1, 1953 at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, after Sister Bernard's death, her granddaughter, Emelda B. Harris, continued instructing the choir and serving as the pianist, along with Mother Frankie Johnson, who served as Mother of the choir. Mother Johnson loved children dearly and provided guidance and a praying and teaching spirit to the choir until her death at 100 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the first pianist of the Junior Choir was Wynetta McWood Lindsey Smith who served the church for many years. Other musicians were Lillie Short Richardson, Emelda B. Harris, Pinkie Box, Ventura Driver, Minister Malcolm Speed and the current pianist and coordinator Phyllis Craig; and

WHEREAS, the first president of the choir was Eva Mae Jones and the current president is Kia Taylor. Many church members, musicians, singers, directors, and other and leaders began in this Junior Choir and continue to serve the church and the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the Junior Choir of Christ's Southern Mission Baptist Church on the occasion of its 70th Anniversary and we wish them continued success and achievement and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 1st day of February, 2008 by:

Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward

Adopted this the 1st day of February, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen